

1-94



Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 46th ARRL affiliated year

Volume 2, No. 5

January 1994



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VACANT	VACANT

January Meeting: Video
Showing hike up K2

**Happy
New Year!!**

Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on Friday night January 7, 1994 and will feature a meeting about mountaineering. This will be a video tape showing an ascent of the world's most dangerous mountain, K2. This is also the second largest mountain in the world. Other mountains will also be depicted in the video. Some say the hams are crazy, but it should be interesting to see how crazy people can be in other hobbies like this particular one. Hi Hi. Just a little note about last month's meeting. It went very well with a very large turnout. Attendance seems to be up this year, which is great to see. However, please start to think about the June election. We desperately need people to run for the next term and fill the remaining open spots. Please run! This month the doors will open at 7:30 P.M. and the meeting will start at approximately 8:00 P.M. We hope to see you there!

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Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

The next board meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday January 13, 1994 and will take place at the Olson's QTH. If you are interested in attending, please ask Dave, K1MVR for directions at the next meeting. Remember, anyone can attend our board meetings.

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and best wishes for the New Year! The rest of the year starting with this next meeting will be very interesting. We have re-instituted Tech Corner, and will demonstrate construction of a very portable 20, 30, or 40 meter vertical antenna. Tech Corner starts at 7:30. Also we'll have some secret scoop for some extra (rare) points for the VHF Contest this month.

The VE sessions run by Yorke, K1BXE, for the clubs' class (and others) was quite successful. We now have several new No-Code Techs (most of whom are interested in upgrading), and a new Advanced ticket was given (along with a CSCE for 20 wpm!).

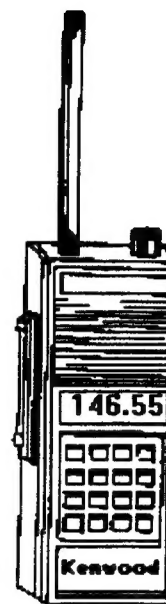
Also coming up in April is our annual Flea Market. It is sure to be a good one (we already have vendors signing up!), so start saving your pennies. I hope you'll consider lending a

helping hand, as this one event is the major fund raiser for our club. Please let a board member know if you can help.

Art, W1KKK gave an excellent suggestion that I hope you will join in on with us. Bring in a QSL card (or two), and introduce yourself to someone you don't know well at the meeting. After you say meet, fill out a QSL card and exchange them. Let's see who will get the first EBCC (Eyeball CC). It's a great way to meet another ham. We've got a tremendous resource of RF info in our membership. Here's a chance for you to get acquainted with it.

And it's not too soon to start thinking about Field Day (yes, Field Day!). Those attending had a great time both operating and eating hot dogs. We'll let you know the date, so plan on joining us in June. I hope to see you at the next meeting!

73, Barry N1IJK



ZB Classified

No classifieds this month, but I would like to make this a monthly column. It would be a great linkage between the ham community. When someone has something for sale, many times others are unaware of it! Let them know, free of charge, with ZB Classifieds. Send yours to Kevin Hilinski, 17 Pilgrim Drive, Tolland, CT 06084-2907 by the 15th of the month.

Happy 90th birthday to Bob Stephens, W1MM!!

Zero Beat is a monthly publication except in July and August by the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. Any article may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the publication and its author(s). This issue would not be possible without the help of Jerry Griffin and his computer equipment. Thanks, EDITOR

VHF ∞ UHF ∞ SHF Contest Log

Call Used

Grid²

Log Sheet of

Date _____

Band

Time

Call Worked

Grid²

Mult

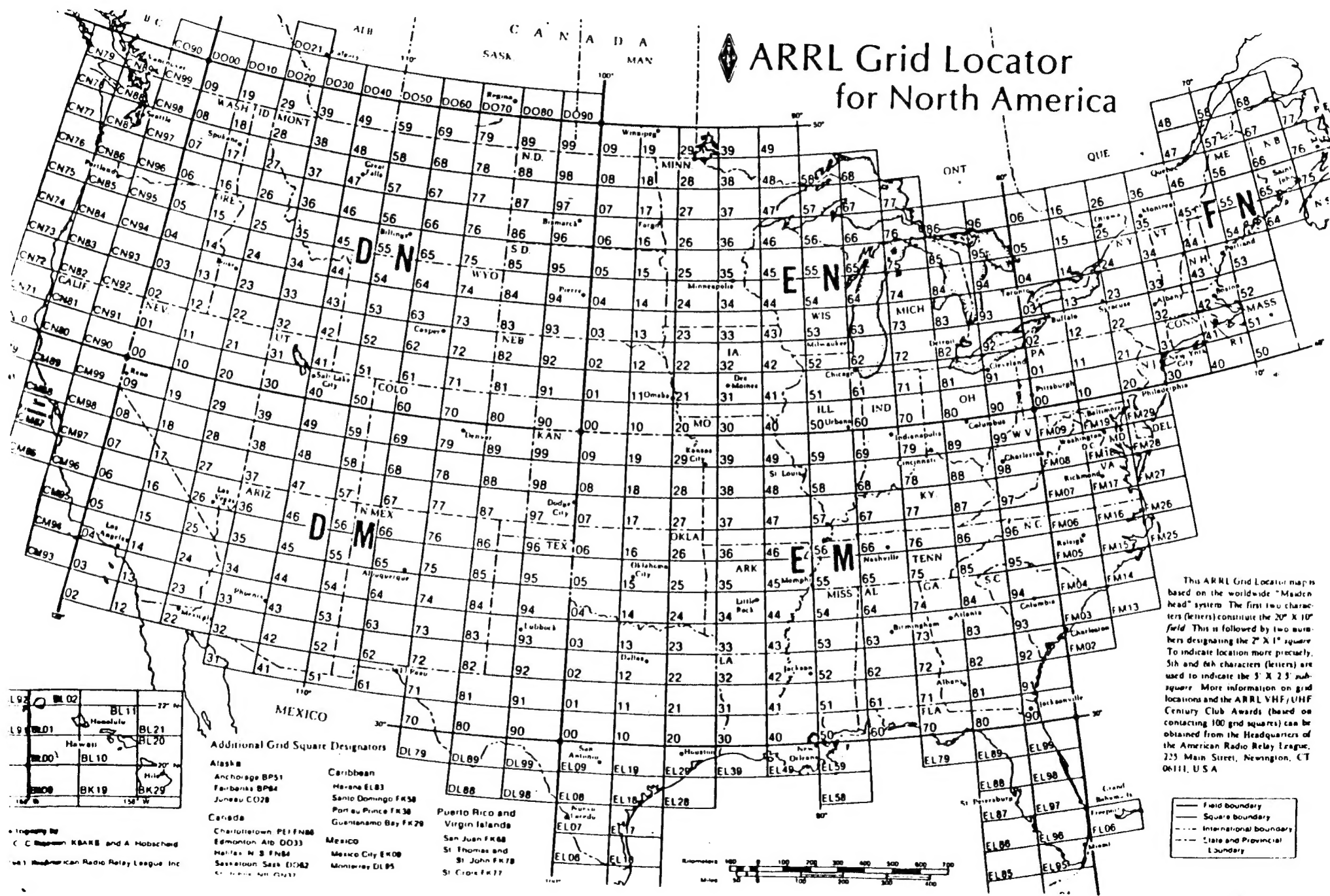
Notes

[illegible]

30 Contacts per page

Totals

ARRL Grid Locator for North America



Well, it's time once again for the January VHF Sweepstakes Contest. Hopefully by now you've got all of your equipment fired up and working correctly, and or, your plans are all set for a multiop or rover effort. Here's some information that should be helpful to maximize or make you effort more efficient.

1. GET ON AND OPERATE !! It doesn't matter how large or small the effort is, but please make an effort. The more entries sent in the better!

2. Activity Hours: all listed in local (EST) time.

222 MHz - 8pm - 9pm , 8am - 9am , 8pm - 9pm
432 MHz - 9pm - 10pm , 9am - 10am , 9pm - 10pm
903 MHz \
1296 MHz - 10pm - 11pm , 10am - 11am , 10pm - 11pm
2304 MHz /

These activity hours are recognized as a standard, and this is when the most activity is concentrated on these bands.

There are no recognized activity hours for 6 or 2 meters.

3. FM Operation: With the inter-club competition with the MTARA, the FM bands should be very busy. The following frequencies should be used on FM.

2 METERS - 146.49 , 146.55 , 146.58

*** CAUTION *** USE OF 146.52 FOR CONTESTING IS NOT ALLOWED!

1 1/4 METERS - 223.5 ONLY

70 CENTIMETERS - 446.000 ONLY

Anytime that you can get on the FM bands, I'm sure you'll find plenty of activity.

4. SEND YOUR SCORE IN !! Get it in before the deadline. In order for your score to go towards the HCRA CLUB SCORE, just be sure to mark your entry for club affiliation as HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION. Please send your logs directly to the ARRL.

5. HAVE FUN !!! Remember, we're AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. This means we enjoy communicating with our radio equipment as a hobby for FUN. So try not to get frustrated if there is QRM or other problems, remember the only thing this contest is about is communicating with as many of your fellow hams as possible. So again, HAVE FUN, and GOOD LUCK !!!

VHF SWEEPSTAKES ENTRY FORM

CLUB AFFILIATION: HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

CATEGORY: (CHECK ONE)(FILL IN BANDS WHERE APPLICABLE)

_____ SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND _____

_____ SINGLE OPERATOR, MULTIBAND

_____ SINGLE OPERATOR, QRP PORTABLE

_____ ROVER

_____ LIMITED MULTIOPERATOR, 4 BANDS MAX. _____, _____, _____, _____

_____ MULTIOPERATOR

SCORING

FREQ.	BAND	QSOs	FACTOR	QSO POINTS	GRID SQUARES
50	6 MTRS	_____	X 1	_____	_____
144	2 MTRS	_____	X 1	_____	_____
222	1 1/4	_____	X 2	_____	_____
432	70 cm	_____	X 2	_____	_____
903	33 cm	_____	X 4	_____	_____
1296	23 cm	_____	X 4	_____	_____
2304	13 cm	_____	X 8	_____	_____
3456	7 cm	_____	X 8	_____	_____
5760	5 cm	_____	X 8	_____	_____
10368	2.5 cm	_____	X 8	_____	_____
TOTAL		QSOs		QSO POINTS	GRID SQUARES
		_____		_____	_____

TOTAL Q'POINTS x TOTAL GRIDS = SCORE

TOTAL SCORE: _____ X _____ = _____

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE COMPLIED WITH ALL FCC AND ARRL RULES AND REGULATIONS WHILE OPERATING DURING THIS CONTEST.

_____, SIGNATURE

_____, CALLSIGN _____ - _____ - _____, DATE

Rules, 47th January VHF Sweepstakes

1) **Object:** To work as many amateur stations in as many different $2^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only.

2) **Contest Period:** Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, January 22 and ends at 0400 UTC Monday, January 24.

3) Categories:

(A) **Single Operator:** One person performs all operating and logging functions.

(1) **Multiband.**

(2) **Single Band:** Single-band entries in the 50, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1296 and 2304-and-up categories will be recognized both in QST score listings and in awards offered. Contacts may be made on any and all bands without jeopardizing single-band entry status. Such additional contacts are encouraged and should be reported. Also see Rule 9, Awards.

(B) **Single-Operator, QRP-Portable:** Run 10-W output or less using a portable power source from a portable location. The intent of this rule is to encourage operation from "remote" locations, not to have home or fixed stations run low power.

(C) **Rover:** One or two operators of a single station who move among two or more grid squares during the course of the contest, making contest contacts using the same equipment and antennas at each site, will be considered a rover. Rovers sign "Rover" on phone and /R on CW after their call signs. The intent of the Rover category prohibits fixed-station scores from being included in Rover operations; stations may, however, enter the Rover category with a separate log for Rover activities. All Rovers are encouraged to adopt operating practices that allow as many stations as possible to contact them.

(D) **Multioperator:** Multioperator stations must locate all equipment (including antennas) within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet).

(E) **Limited Multioperator:** Multioperator stations that submit a maximum of four bands for score are eligible. Logs from additional bands used should be included as checklogs.

4) **Exchange:** Grid-square locator (see Jan 1983 QST, p 49). Example: WIAW in Newington, Connecticut, would send FN31. Exchange of signal report is optional.

5) Scoring:

(A) **QSO points:** Count one point for each complete 50- or 144-MHz QSO. Count two points for each 222- or 432-MHz QSO. Count four points for each 902- or 1296-MHz QSO. Count eight points for each 2.3-GHz-or-higher QSO.

(B) **Multiplier:** The total number of different grid squares worked per band. Each $2^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid square counts as one multiplier on each band it is worked.

(C) **Final score:** Multiply the total number of QSO points from all bands operated by the total number of multipliers for final score (see scoring example).

(D) **Rovers only:** The final score consists of the total number of QSO points from all bands times the total number of multipliers from all grid squares in which they operated.

6) Use of FM:

(A) Retransmitting either or both stations, or use of repeater frequencies, is not permitted. This prohibits use of all repeater frequencies. Contest entrants may not transmit on repeaters or repeater frequencies on 2 meters for the purpose of soliciting contacts.

(B) Use of the national simplex frequency, 146.52 MHz, or immediate adjacent guard frequencies is prohibited. Contest entrants may not transmit on 146.52 for the purpose of making or soliciting QSOs. The intent of this rule is to protect the national simplex frequency from contest monopolization. There are no restrictions on the use of 223.50 MHz.

Scoring Example

Band (MHz)	QSOs	QSO Points	Grid Squares
50	25 (x1)	25	10
144	40 (x1)	40	20
222	10 (x2)	20	5
432	15 (x2)	30	10
902	36 (x4)	144	9
1296	5 (x4)	20	3
2304	1 (x8)	8	1
5760	1 (x8)	8	1
Totals	133	295	59

Final Score = (QSO Points) \times (Total no. of Grid Squares) $17,405 = 295 \times 59$

may be used, such as 144.90 to 145.00; 146.49, .55 and .58; and 147.42, .45, .48, .51, .54 and .57 MHz on the 2-meter band. Local-option simplex channels and frequencies adjacent to the above that do not violate the intent of (A) or (B) above or the spirit and intent of the band plans as recommended in the ARRL Repeater Directory may be used for contest purposes.

7) Miscellaneous:

(A) Stations may be worked for credit only once per band from any given grid square, regardless of mode. This does not prohibit working a station from more than one grid square with the same call sign (such as a Rover). Crossband QSOs do not count. Aeronautical mobile contacts do not count.

(B) Partial QSOs do not count. Both calls, the full exchange and acknowledgment must be sent and received.

(C) A transmitter used to contact one or more stations may not be used subsequently under any other call during the contest period (with the exception of family stations where more than one call is assigned to one location by the FCC/DOC); one operator may not give out contest QSOs using more than one call sign from any one location. The intent of this rule is to accommodate family members who must share a rig, not to manufacture artificial contacts.

(D) Only one signal per band (6, 2, 1 1/4, etc) at any given time is permitted, regardless of mode.

(E) While no minimum distance is specified for contacts, equipment should be capable of real communications (ie, be able to communicate over at least 1 km).

(F) Multioperator stations may not include QSOs with their own operators except on frequencies higher than 2.3 GHz. Even then, a complete, separate station (transmitter, receiver and antenna) must exist for each QSO made under these conditions.

(G) A station located precisely on a dividing line between grid squares must select only one as the location for exchange purposes. A different grid-square multiplier cannot be given out without moving the complete station (including antennas) at least 100 meters.

(H) Above 300 GHz, contacts are permitted for contest credit only between licensed amateurs using coherent radiation on transmission (eg, laser) and employing at least one stage of electronic detection on receive.

(I) Marine Mobile (and Maritime) entries will be listed separately as "Marine Mobile" in the listings and compete separately for awards.

(J) Participants are reminded that the segment 50.100-50.125 MHz should be used for intercontinental QSOs only, using 50.125 MHz as a calling frequency before moving to another frequency after contact is established.

8) Reporting:

(A) Entries must be postmarked no later than

30 days after the end of the contest (February 24, 1994). No late entries can be accepted. Use ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes forms, or a reasonable facsimile, submit your entry on diskette, upload your entry to the ARRL BBS, or send your entry to ARRL HQ via Internet.

(1) Official entry forms are available from HQ for an SASE with two units of First-Class postage or four IRCs.

(2) You may submit your contest entry on diskette in lieu of paper logs. The floppy diskette must be IBM compatible, MS-DOS formatted, 3.5 or 5.25 inch (40 or 80 track). The log information must be in an ASCII file, following the ARRL Suggested Standard File Format, and must contain all log exchange information (band, mode, date, time in UTC, call of station worked, exchange sent, exchange received, multipliers [marked the first time worked] and QSO points). One entry per diskette. An official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile with signed contest participation disclaimer is required with all entries.

(3) You may submit your contest entry via the ARRL BBS (203-665-0090) or via Internet to contest@arrl.org. Send your summary sheet file (Make sure it includes all the pertinent information outlined in the official ARRL summary sheet.) and your log file following the ARRL Suggested Standard File Format.

(B) Logs must indicate band, mode, date, time in UTC, calls and complete exchanges (sent and received), multipliers and QSO points. Multipliers should be marked clearly in the log the first time they are worked. Entries with more than 200 QSOs total must include cross-check sheets (dupe sheets). Send entries to: ARRL Contest Branch, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

9) **Awards:** Certificates will be awarded in the following categories.

(A) Single operator.

(1) Top single operator in each ARRL/RAC Section.

(2) Top single operator on each band (50, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1296 and 2304-and-up categories) in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Note: Because the highest score per band will be the award winner for that band, an entrant may win a certificate with additional single-band endorsements.) For example, if WB0TEM has the highest single-operator all-band score in the Iowa Section and his 50- and 222-MHz scores are higher than any other Iowa single op's, he will earn a certificate for being the single-operator Section leader and endorsements for 50 and 222 MHz.

(B) Top single-operator, QRP-portable in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. Single-operator, QRP portable entries are not eligible for single-band awards.

(C) Top Rover in each ARRL Division and Canada where significant effort or competition is evident. Rover entries are not eligible for single-band awards.

(D) Top multioperator score in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. Multioperator entries are not eligible for single-band awards.

(E) Top limited multioperator in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. Limited multioperator entries are not eligible for single-band awards.

10) **Club Competition:** ARRL-affiliated clubs compete for gavels on three levels: unlimited, medium and local. Details are in January QST.

11) **Condition of Entry:** Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions, as well as the intent, of this announcement, the regulations of his or her licensing authority and the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee.

12) **Disqualifications:** For excess duplicate contacts and call sign or exchange errors. See January QST for complete details.

Zero Beat - January 1994

January Meeting:

Mountaineering on K2

Friday January 7, 1994

Special VHF Contest Issue

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

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